

DCODE



Decision Making Constructs in a Distributed Environment

Robert Fleming SPAWAR Systems Center

bob.fleming@navy.mil 619.553.3628

maintaining the data needed, and c including suggestions for reducing	lection of information is estimated to ompleting and reviewing the collect this burden, to Washington Headqu uld be aware that notwithstanding ar DMB control number.	ion of information. Send comments arters Services, Directorate for Information	regarding this burden estimate mation Operations and Reports	or any other aspect of the 1215 Jefferson Davis	is collection of information, Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington		
1. REPORT DATE JAN 2004		2. REPORT TYPE		3. DATES COVE 00-00-2004	red I to 00-00-2004		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE			5a. CONTRACT NUMBER				
Decision Making Constructs in a Distributed Environment			5b. GRANT NUMBER		1BER		
					5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER			
				5e. TASK NUMBER			
		5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER					
	ZATION NAME(S) AND AD V arfare Systems Cer 101	` '	an	8. PERFORMING REPORT NUMB	GORGANIZATION ER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)			
				11. SPONSOR/M NUMBER(S)	ONITOR'S REPORT		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAIL Approved for publ	LABILITY STATEMENT ic release; distributi	on unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NO Collaboration and	otes Knowledge Manage	ement (CKM) Work	shop, 13-15 Jan 2	2004, San Die	go, CA		
14. ABSTRACT							
15. SUBJECT TERMS							
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF	18. NUMBER	19a. NAME OF		
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified	Same as Report (SAR)	OF PAGES 70	RESPONSIBLE PERSON		

Report Documentation Page

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188



Overall Objectives



- Improve the quality of group decision making by
 - (1) enhancing the ability of each participant to assess/evaluate their pool of disparate information findings
 - (2) simplifying the process by which participants share uniquely held information
 - (3) improving the process for integrating this shared information into the on-going decision process and
 - (4) developing information "drill down" capabilities so that participants can quickly focus on the differing subjective assessments that are causing lack of decision consensus.



This year's Objectives



- Expand development of IOBs
- Interface with EWALL project



Contribution to CKM



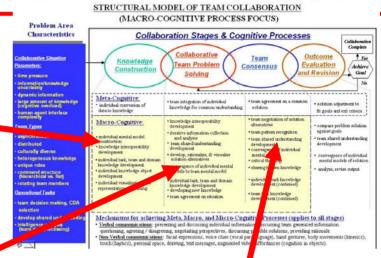
COLLABORATION AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT (CKM) PROGRAM

What are the task parameters?

- ·individual mental model construction
- knowledge interoperability development

What is the data saying?

- •iterative information collection and analysis
- team shared understanding development
- develop, rationalize, & visualize solution alternatives



What is the group decision? team negotiation of solution alternatives

- team pattern recognition
- team shared understanding development
- convergence of individual mental models
- •sharing hidden knowledge

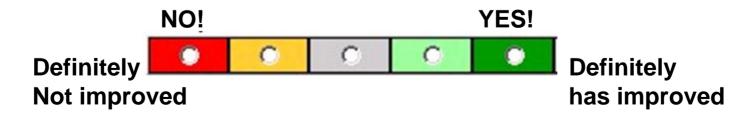


Sample Decision Making Task



 We have spent a lot of money over the last two years on improving airport security.

- Has Airport Security significantly improved?
 - Review reports and assign an overall effect/impact score to the results:





You search and retain 10 reports

madian

w Authority (

to open four

cated in Edm

ening at Can

included scis

Made and Challenges Remaining

What GAO Found

sensoning program, challenges remain



Airport Security Gets Another 'F'

Vulnerabilities an

Improvements for Screeners Flunk CBS Test

What GAO Found

Numerous government and indus the air cargo system. These vulne of some air carriers and freight fo freight at various handoffs that o (Photo: CBS/AP) shipper to the point when it is loweaknesses in this program coul

responsibility for ensuring air ca didn't check key recommendations and mand bags six mo since 1990 by numerous governm again they n the air cargo industry developed this time.

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 3, 2002

(CBS) in January and February C went undercover to test security a American airports. We took leadbags, which block X-rays, throug checknoints

Steve Flann who used to test ch security for the Federal Aviation Administration, helped us with or

"When the bag goes through the there's a big black blob," says El "They're impossible to miss and just continually let it go."

Screeners could not clearly see

in our carry-ons and should have Screeners in Atlanta, and FAA or the Transportation Secur Washington US airport security under fire



Guest Comment

Security on US domestic flights i By BBC News Online's St Matthews

US airline security has suff breach in history.

At least four separate teal boarded planes and hijack hours of each other.

But security experts say the terrorists had been presented with virtually an open goal.

Security on US domestic flights is so relaxed that Security, Smith's Way The cyber model.

By James D. Miller, assistant professor of economics, Smith College October 30, 2001 9:45 a.m.

GAO

Highlights

Why GAO Did This Study

Passenger screening is critical to the security of our nation's aviation

system, particularly in the aftermath of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The

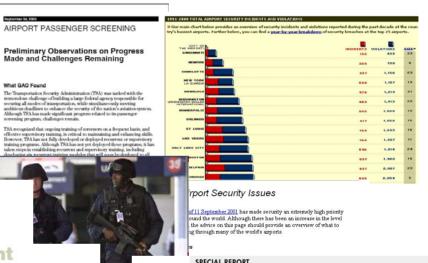
Transportation Security Administration (TSA) is tasked

creening of airline passengers SA has met numerous ISA has not numerous requirements in this required, such as deploying more than 50,000 federal screeners at over 480 commercial airports nationwide. To determin the TSA's passenger servent yarm is archieving its intender fits, GAO is conducting on ting evaluation of TSA's offer

with securing all modes of nanoportation, including the

Unleash the marketplace to strengthen airport security. The socialistic solution of federalizing airport-security workers will deny us the creativity we need to fight terrorists. Only by utilizing the constant competition that the free market provides can we protect America's skies.

Computer networks have to endure incessant attacks from hackers. Network providers have to continually strengthen their defenses to ward off new types of assaults. Hackers have consequently increased computer security and have made the U.S. more resistant to terrorist cyber-attacks. Computer security is not provided by the government, but rather by a marketplace that punishes any firm that can't protect its electronic assets. America's airplanes should be protected by a similar free market approach.



SPECIAL REPORT THE STERILE AIRPORT Near-total airport security is possible.



Technologies are in sight to seal the leaks, spot the bad guys, find the bombs.

AIRPORT SECURITY FOR THE 9/11 AGE

We asked Isotec Inc., a Denver-based security systems design firm, to help us engineer an systems design firm, to neip us engineer an airport that would target terrorists without gumming up passenger traffic. We also sought input from CompuDyne Corp., Viisage Technology, General Defense Systems, and other companies that make and install security equipment. In this evercise, money was no

much of the technology is available, or will be very soon. The goal: Every person, every bag, and all supplies and equipment in an airport will be tagged, tracked, and instantly locatable.

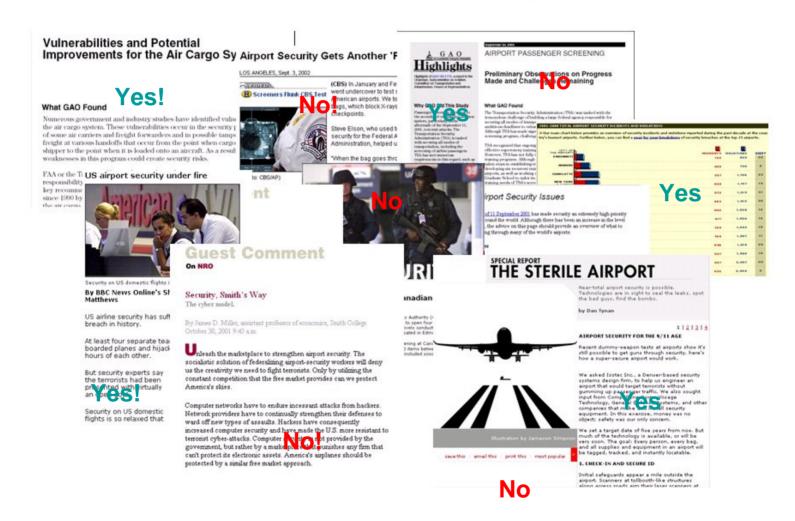
1. CHECK-IN AND SECURE ID

Initial safeguards appear a mile outside the airport. Scanners at tollbooth-like structures along access roads aim their laser scanners at



Subjective conclusions from each of the reports

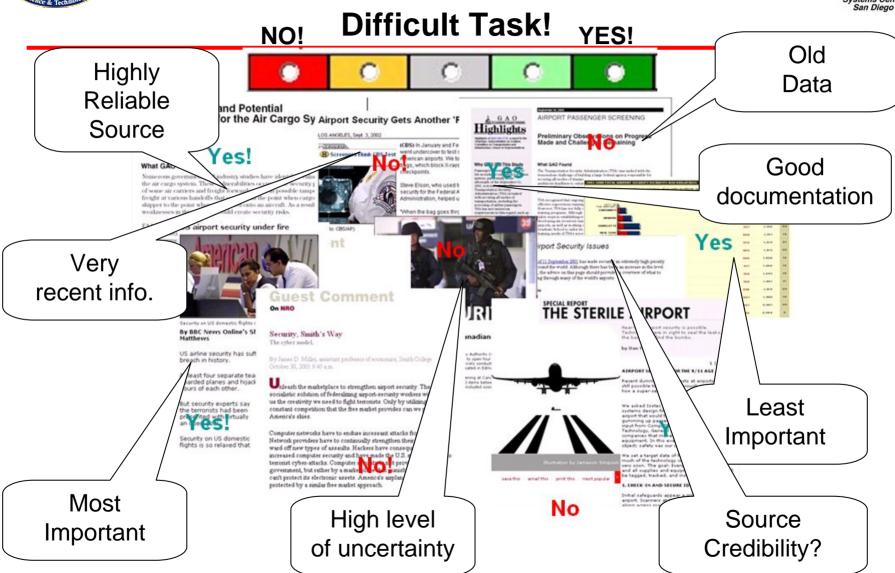






...but other subjective estimates have also been made..

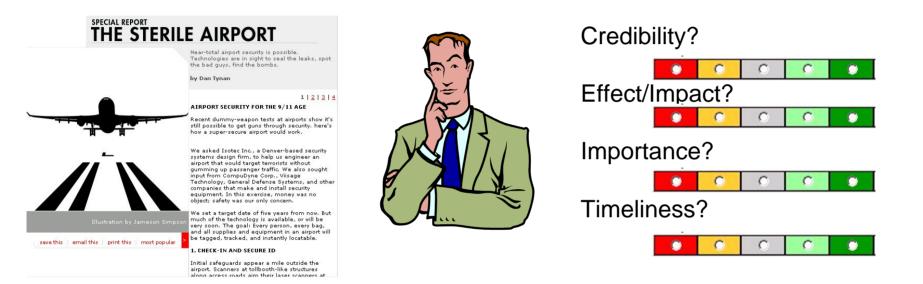






DCODE Solution: Convert <u>IMPLICIT</u> subjective estimates into <u>EXPLICIT</u> estimates.



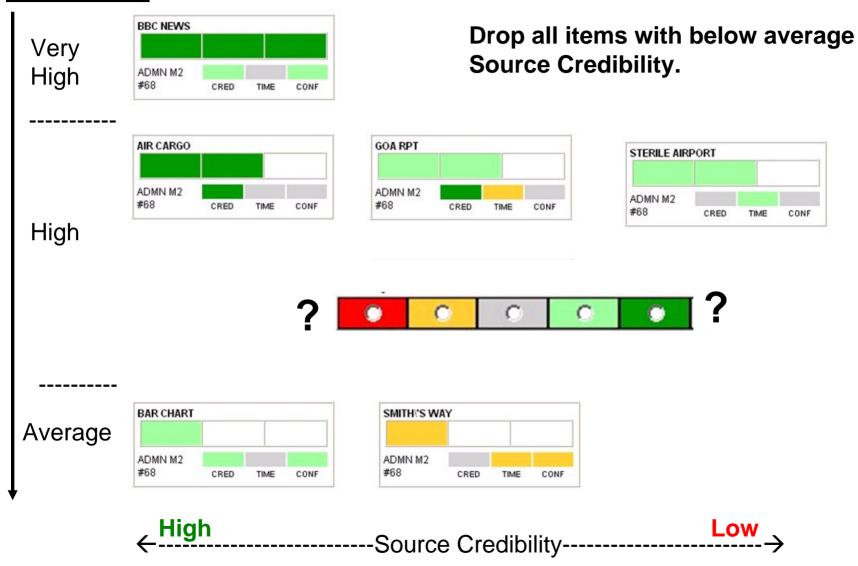


Encapsulate the scores into an icon (called an Information Object, IOB) that displays information quality, impact and importance



Another look at the 10 reports

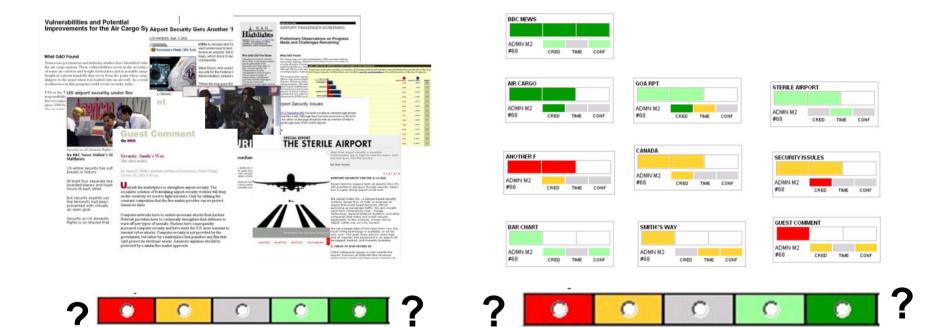
IMPORTANCE





The decision environment:





Documents vs

IOBs





DCODE IOB Process

What are the key Essential Elements that need to be Abstracted from an Information Item? Systems Cents

- Where does it Fit?
 - i.e. which decision criteria/factor (e.g. cost, risk, etc.)?
- How good is the information Quality?
 - What is the Credibility of the source?
 - How Timely is this information?
 - How much Confidence do I have in the information?
- What is the Effect/impact of the information on the criterion?
 - Positive or Negative?
 - Strong or Weak?
- What is the <u>Importance</u> of this item relative to other items?



We access these subjective assessments via an **Abstraction Template** Structure



Keyword

Criteria Fit

Information **Quality** Assessment

Effect/impact

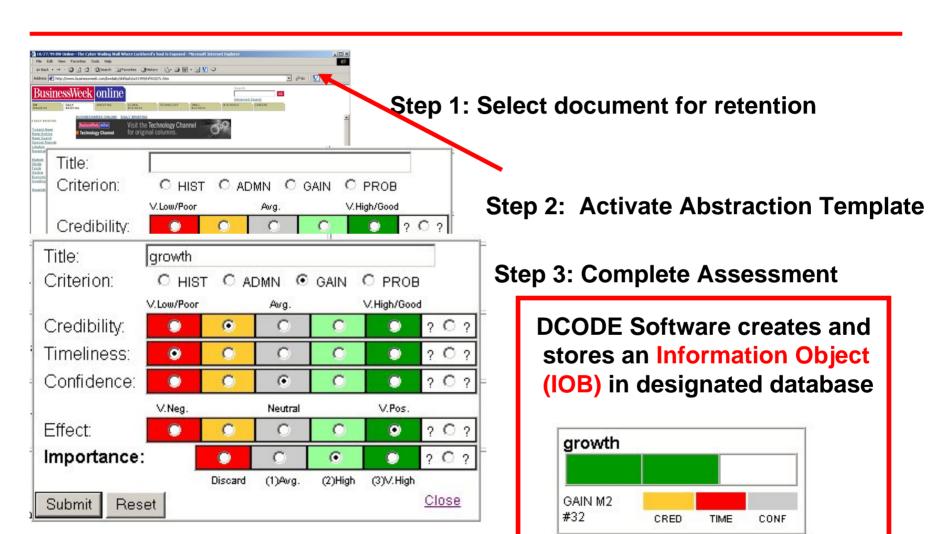
Relative **Importance**

Title:	Aug 02 contract					
Criterion:	C HIST	O AE	O NMC	GAIN	○ PROB	
	V.Low/Poor		Awg.		V.High/Good	
Credibility:	•	0	C	0	•	? 0 ?
Timeliness:	•	0	0	0	•	? 🖰 ?
Confidence:	•	0	0	0	0	? C ?
	V.Neg.		Neutral		V.Pos.	
Effect:	•	0	0	0	•	? 🖰 ?
Importance	:	0	0	0	0	? C ?
		Discard	(1)Avg.	(2)High	(3)V.High	
Submit Res	et					Close



We display/share these assessments using an Information Object (IOB)







Information Objects (IOBs)



The creation, use and sharing of Information Objects (IOBs) is the key critical concept in DCODE.



Information Object (IOB)



An IOB is an iconic encapsulation of the subjective assessments an individual has assigned to a particular information item.

It is automatically created from the completed abstraction template.

It is analogous to military tactical symbology.







IOB Representation of subjective assessments





IOB Encapsulation Process

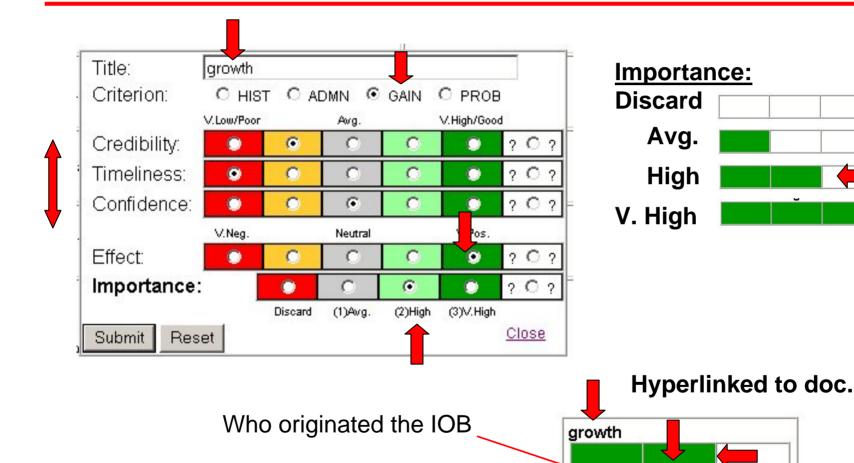
GAIN M2 #32

CRED

TIME

CONF



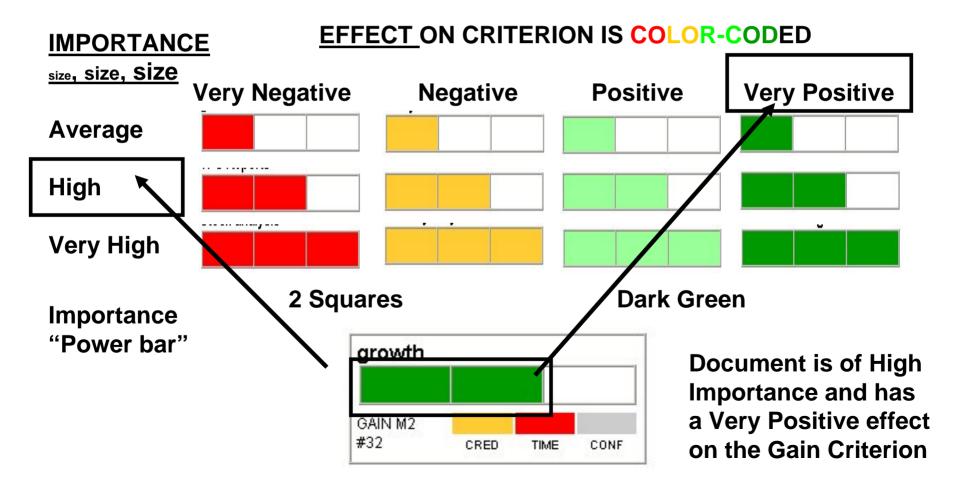


Unique identifier



Effect/Importance Coding







De-Cluttering the Display

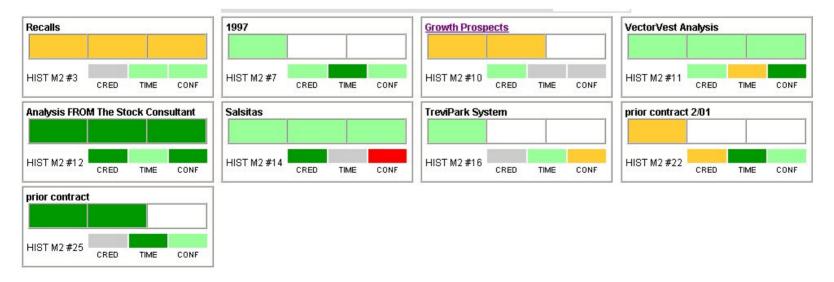


Minimal View (keyword, effect, importance)



Which Item? The Effect? The Importance?

Full View (all parameters) available as a drill-down capability





Why Use IOBs?



• IOBs improves an individual's <u>decision making</u> ability by simplifying the evaluation of disparate information sources.







Sharing and Integration of Information



IOB Sorting/Analysis Techniques

Participant's Individual Display



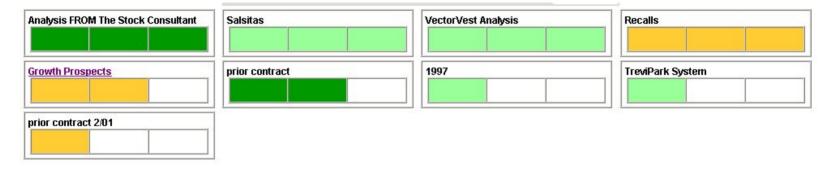
Give me non-redundant IOBs from other group members

View: All Sort by: So	ort By: For demonstration documents/URL's.	Group Comparison Representation Representation of the IOB's are hyperlinked to	
History	Overall Criterion Score:	C C Submit [Add Group]	
Recalls	1997	Growth Prospects	VectorVest Analysis
Analysis FROM The Stock Consultant	Salsitas	TreviPark System	prior contract 2/01



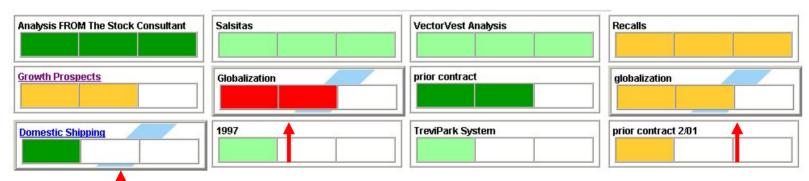
IDCODE Provides "one-click" sharing of Uniquely Held Information

Information that I have:



"Add Group"

Adds three new group IOBs



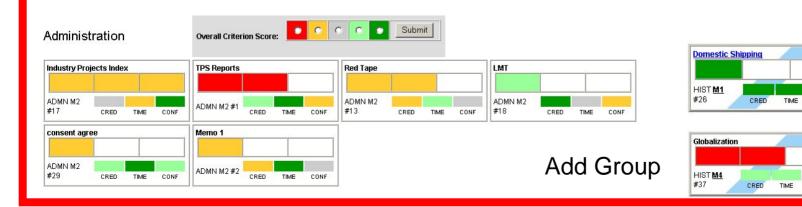


DCODE IOBs Improve the Integration of Shared Information



CONE

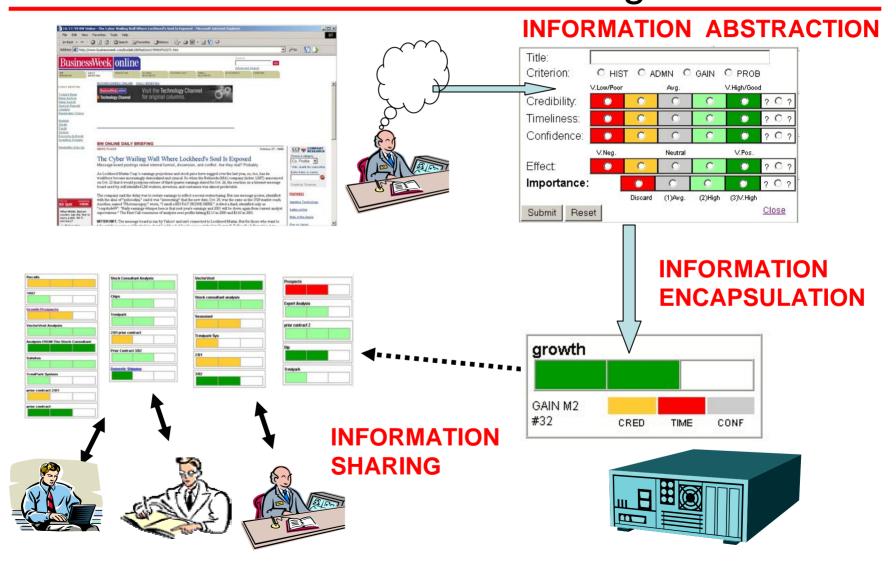






Key Concepts in IOB Application to **Shared Understanding**







New Concepts (not in demo)



Entering personal knowledge

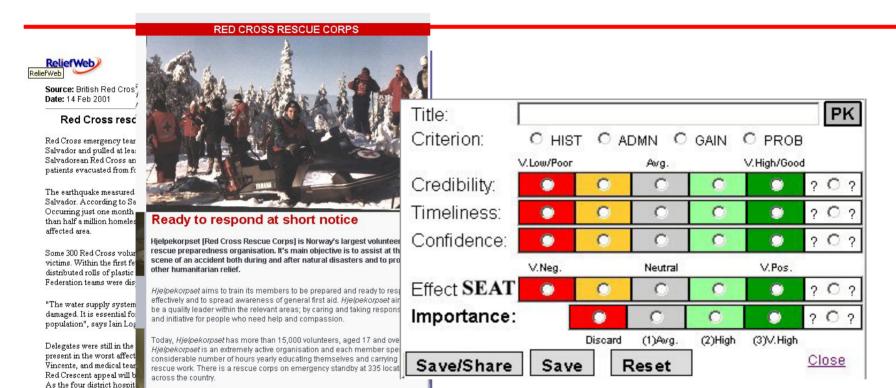
Encoding Quality of Information

The "EQI" bar



Two Information Sources:





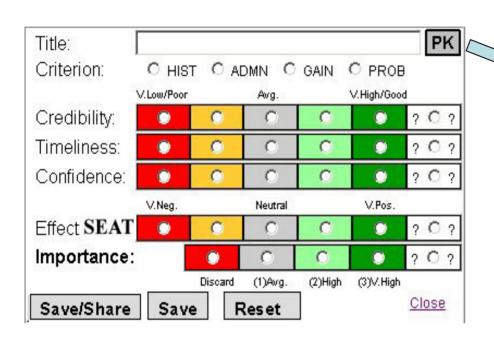
(1) Internet, Documents, Databases, etc

teams were sent to assist the mosphum some and described success masonia to see up open an wards



...and (2) Personal Knowledge





"Personal Knowledge"



A click here produces a text box for information entry:

Created by: M1 BILL

On: 9/23/03 1705

In 1998 I was involved in a Simulated NEO, and we found that....

Save/Finish



Information Coding



- Three most critical elements are:
- Effect/Impact: Color (4 or 5 levels)



• Importance: Size (3 levels)



Quality: Composite of several parameters

Color Pattern (2 levels)





Coding Quality of Information

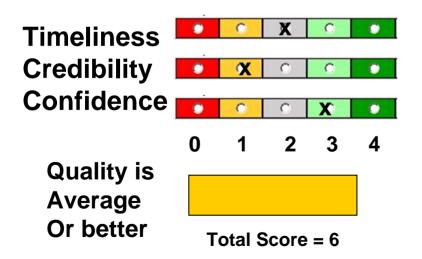


Quality is a composite score:

Decision Team sets up a scoring algorithm, e.g.

"flag any total score 5 or less"









The Effect/Quality/Importance (EQI) Bar













Do IOBs really help?



PG School Experiment 18 Officers (Summer 03)



- Display: Text vs IOBs
- Decision: Positive vs Negative

Display					
	Text Only	IOBs			
Positive	N=5	N=5	N=10		
Decision Negative	N=4	N=4	N=8		
	N=9	N=9	N (tot)=18		



Task:



- Should we use Islandia as the refugee site?
 - Sees 30 information items (randomized)
 - -5 decision criteria
 - 6 items per criteria



The Five Decision Criteria



[COMmunications - TSPortation - LABor - ADMistration - SANitation]

- Communications Facilities (COM): Assess the communication facilities that
 are available in Islandia, including land telephone systems, radio, TV, cellular
 phone availability and coverage, etc.
- Transportation Facilities (TSP): Assess the transportation facilities that are available in Islandia, including roads, docks, airports, etc.
- Labor Pool (LAB): Assess the labor pool that would be available to staff the camp in Islandia, including size of the pool, quality of workers, work ethic/tradition, etc.
- Administrative Requirements (ADM): Assess the administrative requirements needed to set up the camp in Islandia, including, permits, fees, environmental considerations, bureaucratic red tape, graft, bribes, etc.
- Sanitation/Health/Medical conditions (SAN): Assess the sanitation, health and medical conditions expected in Islandia, including drinking water, sewerage disposal, medical facilities, infectious diseases, etc.



Text Condition (9 subjects)



1/30

....A cultural tradition in Islandia is that each worker is given a single two month vacation each year, which he can take any time during the year. All the employee has to do is give the employer a one week notice before going on vacation. This has caused unexpected and disrupted work shortages when several employees elect to take the vacation at the same time...



[COMmunications - TSPortation - LABor - ADMistration - SANitation]

- Communications Facilities (COM): Assess the communication facilities that
 are available in Islandia, including land telephone systems, radio, TV, cellular
 phone availability and coverage, etc.
- Transportation Facilities (TSP): Assess the transportation facilities that are available in Islandia, including roads, docks, airports, etc.
- Labor Pool (LAB): Assess the labor pool that would be available to staff the camp in Islandia, including size of the pool, quality of workers, work ethic/tradition, etc.
- Administrative Requirements (ADM): Assess the administrative requirements needed to set up the camp in Islandia, including, permits, fees, environmental considerations, bureaucratic red tape, graft, bribes, etc.
- Sanitation/Health/Medical conditions (SAN): Assess the sanitation, health and medical conditions expected in Islandia, including drinking water, sewerage disposal, medical facilities, infectious diseases, etc.

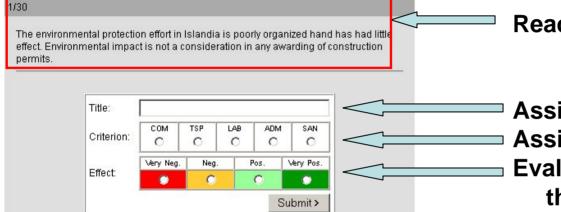
Read this, then assign it to one of the five criteria

(do 30 of these)



IOB Condition (9 subjects)





Read this, then:

Assign a keyword
Assign it to a criterion
Evaluate its effect on
the criterion

[COMmunications - TSPortation - LABor - ADMistration - SANitation]

- Communications Facilities (COM): Assess the communication facilities that
 are available in Islandia, including land telephone systems, radio, TV, cellular
 phone availability and coverage, etc.
- Transportation Facilities (TSP): Assess the transportation facilities that are available in Islandia, including roads, docks, airports, etc.
- Labor Pool (LAB): Assess the labor pool that would be available to staff the camp in Islandia, including size of the pool, quality of workers, work ethic/tradition, etc.
- Administrative Requirements (ADM): Assess the administrative requirements needed to set up the camp in Islandia, including, permits, fees, environmental considerations, bureaucratic red tape, graft, bribes, etc.
- Sanitation/Health/Medical conditions (SAN): Assess the sanitation, health and medical conditions expected in Islandia, including drinking water, sewerage disposal, medical facilities, infectious diseases, etc.

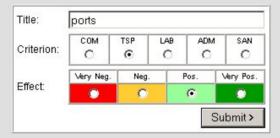


Completed Item (IOB)



3/30

".... The major ports of Islandia are less than three days sailing from the primary disaster recovery supply center at Naha. Naha also has three supply ships that are permanently loaded to be used in quick response assistance..."



[COMmunications - TSP ortation - LABor - ADMistration - SANitation]

- Communications Facilities (COM): Assess the communication facilities that
 are available in Islandia, including land telephone systems, radio, TV, cellular
 phone availability and coverage, etc.
- Transportation Facilities (TSP): Assess the transportation facilities that are available in Islandia, including roads, docks, airports, etc.
- Labor Pool (LAB): Assess the labor pool that would be available to staff the camp in Islandia, including size of the pool, quality of workers, work ethic/tradition, etc.
- Administrative Requirements (ADM): Assess the administrative requirements needed to set up the camp in Islandia, including, permits, fees, environmental considerations, bureaucratic red tape, graft, bribes, etc.
- Sanitation/Health/Medical conditions (SAN): Assess the sanitation, health and medical conditions expected in Islandia, including drinking water, sewerage disposal, medical facilities, infectious diseases, etc.

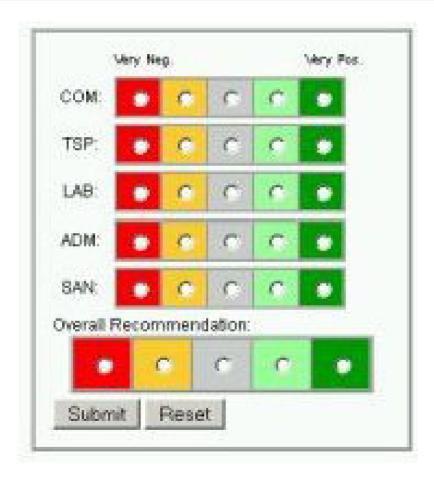
Completed IOB

(does 30 of these)







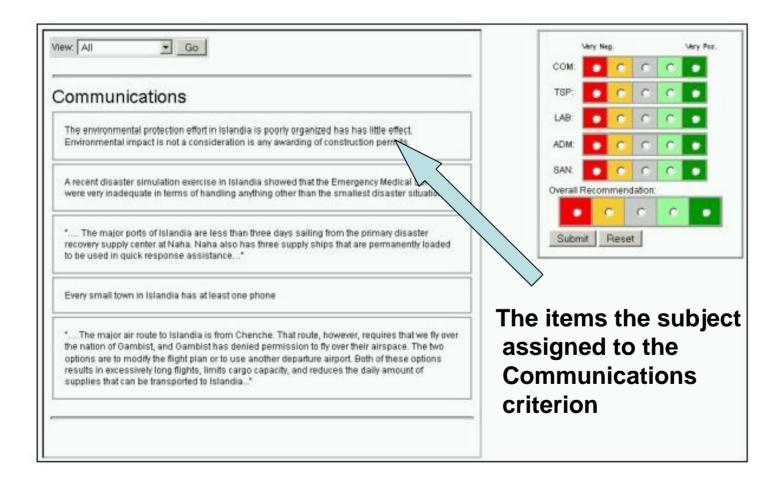


- 5 Criteria Decisions,
- 1 Overall Decision



Decision Display: Text

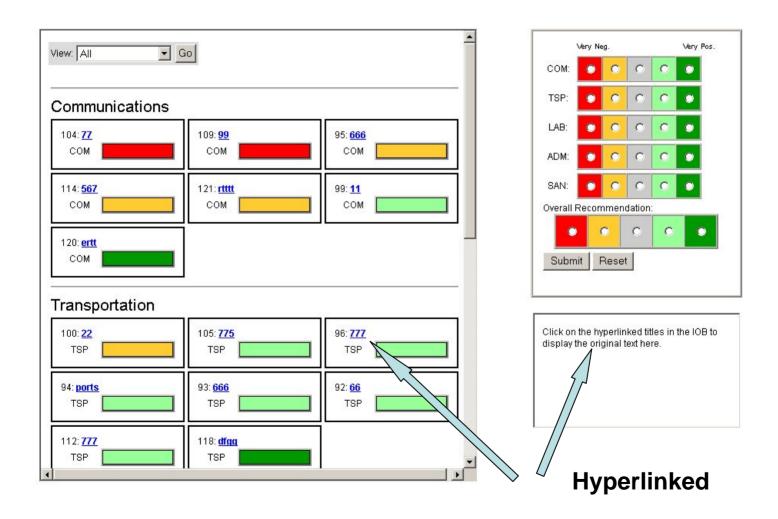






Decision Display: IOB







Positive vs Negative



1/2 of Subjects should make a decision that is Positive:

3 of 5 criteria are Positive

1/2 of Subjects should make a decision that is Negative:

3 of 5 criteria are Negative

Positive Criterion: 4 of the 6 statements are positive Negative Criterion: 4 of the 6 statements are negative



IOB Subjective Assessment



One Last Request: Please select one of the options below in terms of how useful the IOBs were in making your scoring decision (this would be as versus just seeing the text listing of the items you assigned to each criterion)

a lot



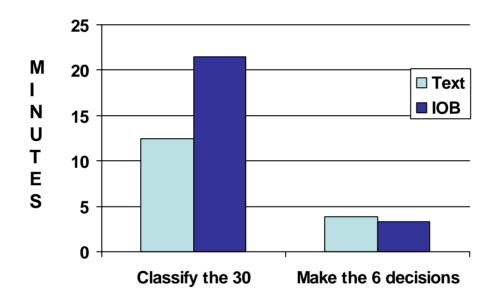


RESULTS



Time Factor



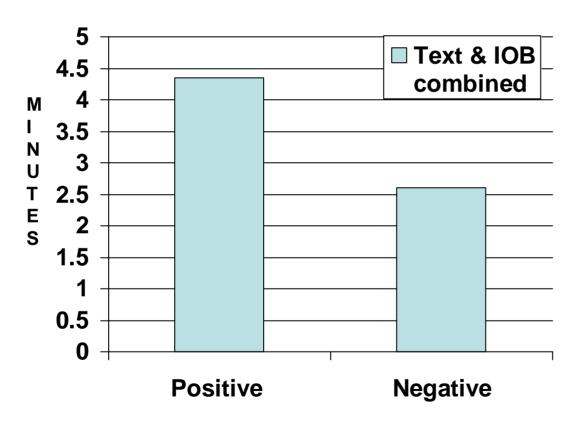


IOB subjects took an average 18 seconds longer per item to enter keyword and make evaluation



TIME TO MAKE DECISIONS



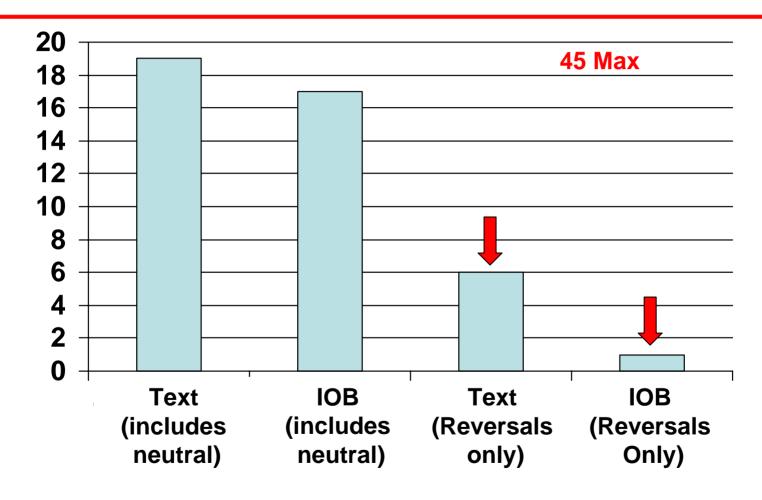


Participants took significantly longer to complete the decision process when the predominance of information was positive.



Errors in Criterion Scoring

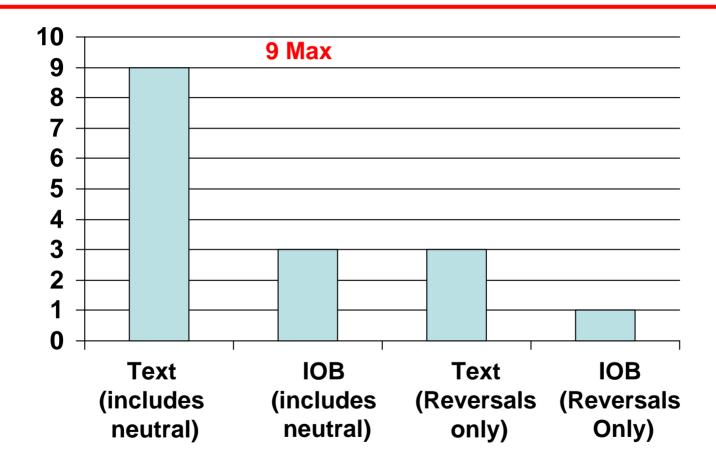






ERRORS OVERALL



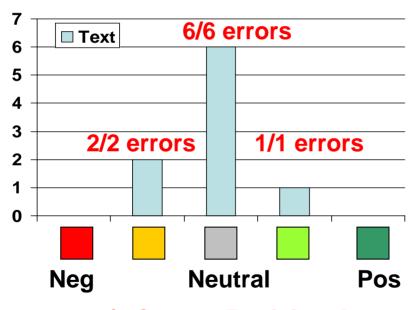




Overall Ratings

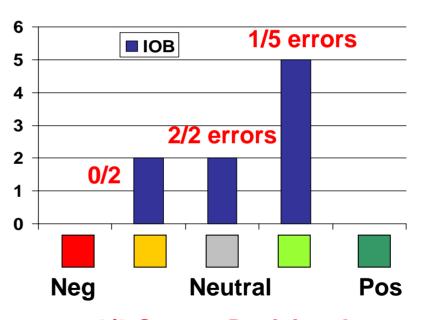


Overall Final Ratings



0/9 Correct Decisions!

Overall Final Ratings



6/9 Correct Decisions!



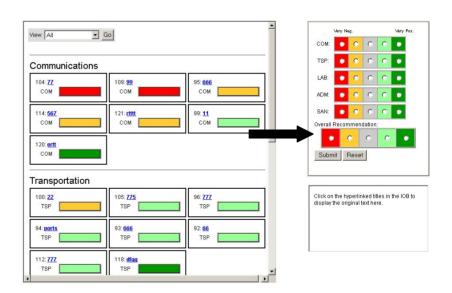
The Two Display Conditions:



TEXT

• Go Communications The environmental protection effort in Islandia is poorly organized has has little effect Environmental impact is not a consideration is any awarding of construction nermits A recent disaster simulation exercise in Islandia showed that the Emergency Medical Services were very inadequate in terms of handling anything other than the smallest disaster situation The major ports of Islandia are less than three days sailing from the primary disaster Submit Reset recovery supply center at Naha. Naha also has three supply ships that are permanently loaded to be used in quick response assistance..." Every small fown in Islandia has at least one ohone "....The major air route to Islandia is from Chenche. That route, however, requires that we fly over the nation of Gambist, and Gambist has denied permission to fly over their airspace. The two options are to modify the flight plan or to use another departure airport. Both of these options results in excessively long flights, limits cargo capacity, and reduces the daily amount of supplies that can be transported to Islandia...

IOB



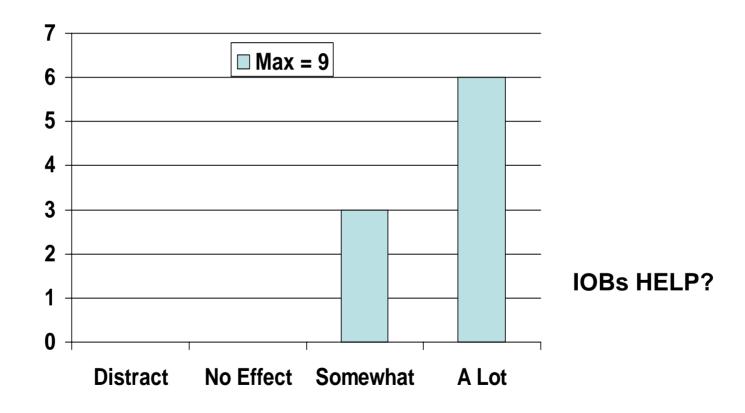
0 out of 9 Correct Overall Decisions

6 out of 9 Correct Overall Decisions











Research Summary:



- Decision time same for Text and IOB.
- Decision time longer for positive information.
- Text participants make more reversal errors in scoring individual criteria.
- In making Overall decisions:
 - Text more likely to use Neutral rating.
 - Text more likely to make reversal errors.
 - IOB make more accurate decisions.
- IOB participants feel IOBs are helpful/useful.



Hidden Profile Experiment

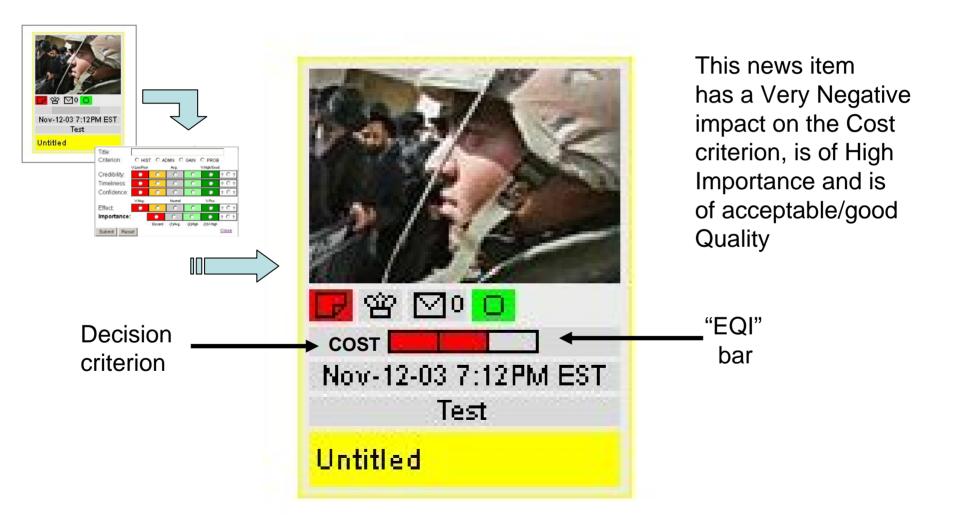


- Subjects saw 12 information items, leading to a Positive or Negative recommendation
- Then saw 10 more items that should cause a reversal in the recommendation
- Out of 20 eligible subjects, only 7 (35%) detected the hidden profile.
- Shifting from Negative to Positive was significantly more difficult (1 out of 6)



Interface with EWALL project







Expected Final Products



- A shrink-wrapped software package:
 - Runs in the background on a WAN or LAN
 - Set-up by the assigned decision-task group
 - User-designed abstraction template
 - IOB Generation algorithm
 - Optimized sorting, analysis package
 - Group interactive IOB display area
 - Uses existing COTS audio/visual collaborative system to reduce conflict, reach consensus.



Possible Application areas



- Proposal submitted to Home Land Security:
 - "Information Objects (IOBs): A Knowledge Management Tool for Information Fusion, Correlation And Distribution"
- Proposal submitted to DDR&E
 - "Iconic Abstractions of Subjective Knowledge for Asynchronous Collaboration"
- DCODE briefed to Counter Drug Investigation Center (CIC)



Recent/Planned Publications



- Information Exchange and Display in Asynchronous C2 Group Decision
 Making. Paper presented at 8th International Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium, Washington D.C., June 2003.
- The Effects of New Information on Decision Modification: The Role of Display Format and Direction of Impact. SSC-SD Technical Report, in prep, Jan 04.
- Improving Individual and Team Decisions Using Iconic Abstractions of Subjective Knowledge. Paper submitted to 9th International Command and Control Research and Technology Symposium, San Diego, June 2004.
- An experimental comparison using text documents versus iconic representations in complex decision making, SSC-SD Technical Report, in prep., Jan 04
- <u>Essential information characteristic needed for any retained decision-relevant information item.</u> SSC-SD Technical Report, in-progress.



IOB On-Line Demo



Available at two sites:

http://64.66.5.34/demo/

http://www.ocf.berkeley.edu/~slinlee/dcode/demo/







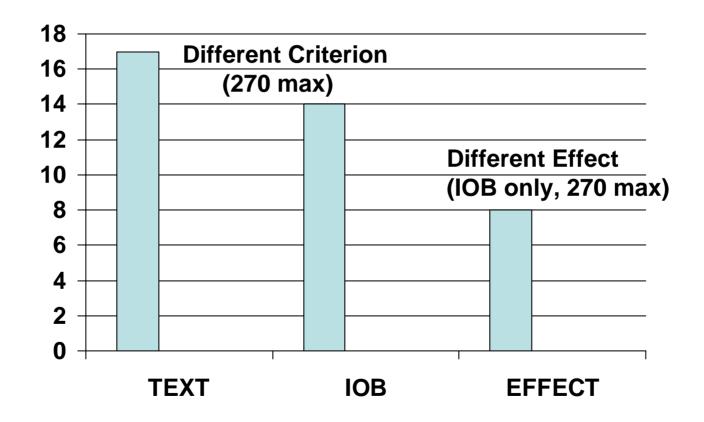


Back-up slides



Assigned to DIFFERENT Crit.

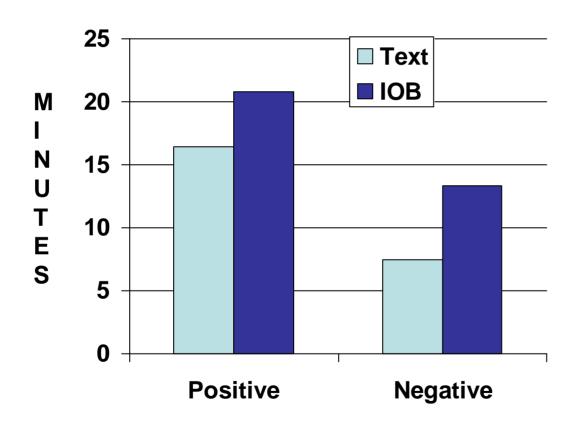






Overall time

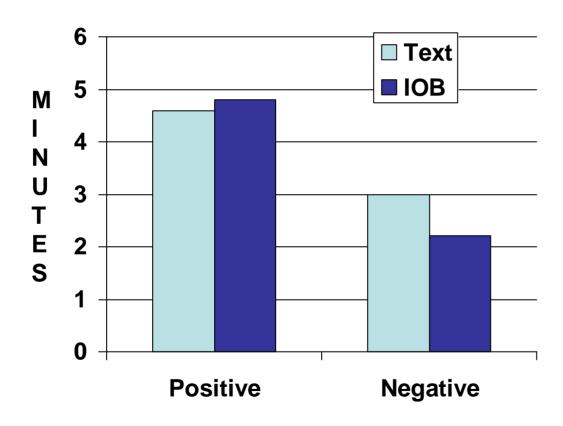






Dec time

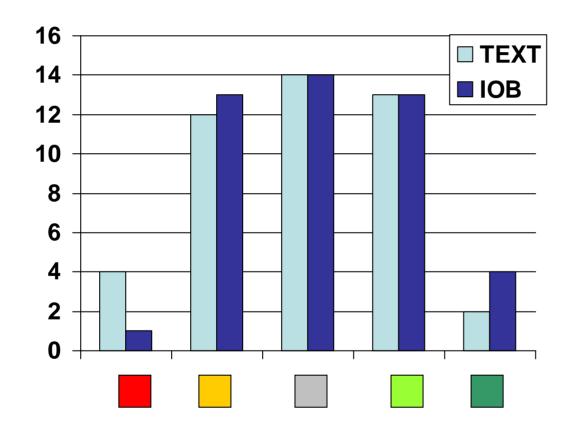








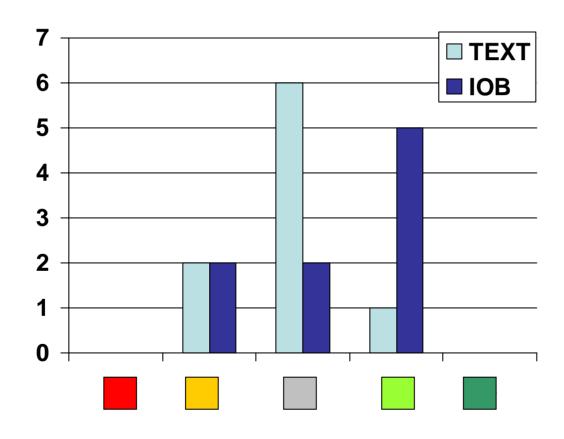








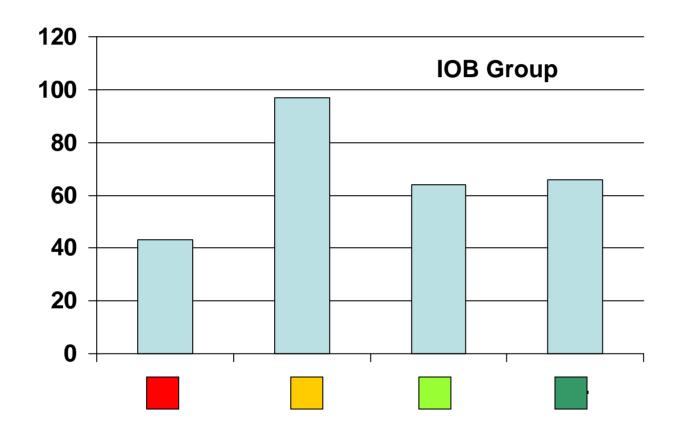














Research Questions



- What are the critical subjective information assessments (parameters) that each individual assigns to a retained information item?
- How can we quantitatively capture these assessments without placing an undue cognitive burden on the individual?
- How do we best display this captured information to improve the ability of the <u>individual</u> to make on overall assessment of his information pool?
- How do we display, share and transfer this captured information to ensure that the group sees and uses to the entire pool of relevant information to reach consensus on the final overall group recommendation?



Decision Making Requirements



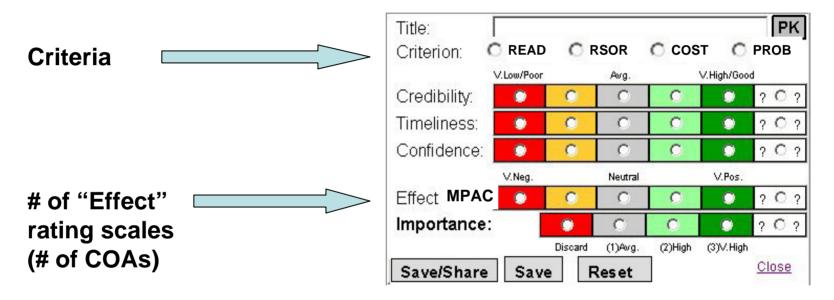
- Once a group has been assigned a decision making task, they need to determine two critical issues:
 - What are the decision criteria (factors) that we will use?
 - e.g. Cost, Risk, Duration, etc.
 - How many <u>options</u> (COAs) are we considering?
 - One (Yes/No, Go/No Go)
 - Should we do A?
 - Multiple COAs
 - Should we do A or B or C or ….?



Template changes only slightly from task to task



Different Decision Tasks modify only 2 parameters of the Abstraction Template:



Buy a Car		Locate a Factory	
Volvo	Cost	Tampa	Taxes
Ford	MPG	LA	Cost
Buick	Maint	Dallas	Labor

Remove Surv. Site
Destroy Assets
Jam Time
IO Risk



Converting Subjective Assessment to EQI Display



Airport Security Gets Another 'F'

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 3, 2002

Screeners Flunk CBS Test



(Photo: CBS/AF

□ 3115.43

Screeners in Atlanta and Washington's Reagan National didn't check any of our film bags six months ago, and again they missed all of them this time.

(CBS) In January and February, CBS News went undercover to test security at major American airports. We took lead-lined film bags, which block X-rays, through checkboints.

Steve Elson, who used to test checkpoint security for the Federal Aviation Administration, helped us with our tests.

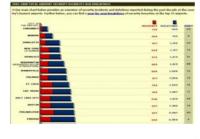
"When the bag goes through the X-ray, there's a big black blob," says Elson. "They're impossible to miss and yet they just continually let it go."

Screeners could not clearly see what was in our carry-ons and should have searched them, because a weapon could have been hidden in or under the film bads.

But 70 percent of screeners failed to check or even detect the film bags. At the time, the Transportation Security

This article is Negative in supporting the decision criterion and is rated of High importance. Some question as to Quality of the information.





This article is Very Positive in supporting the decision criterion and is rated of Very High importance. Information Quality is acceptable/good

Guest Comment

On NRC

Security, Smith's Way The cyber model.

By James D. Miller, assistant professor of economics, Smith College October 30, 2001 9:45 a.m.

Onleash the marketplace to strengthen airport security. The socialistic solution of federalizing airport-security workers will deny us the creativity we need to fight terrorists. Only by utilizing the constant competition that the free market provides can we protect America's skies.

Computer networks have to endure incessant attacks from hackers. Network providers have to continually strengthen their defenses to ward off new types of assaults. Hackers have consequently increased computer security and have made the U.S. more resistant to terrorist cyber-attacks. Computer security is not provided by the government, but rather by a marketplace that punishes any firm that can't protect its electronic assets. America's airplanes should be protected by a similar free market approach.

This article is Very Negative in supporting the decision criterion and is rated of Average importance. Information Quality is acceptable/good